

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Scott E. Jahns et al.

Serial No.: 10/763,861

Filed: January 22, 2004

Docket No.: M190,113,101/P-9198.00

Title: VESSEL SEALING DEVICES

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 21 and 48 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for creating an opening in a first blood vessel and for sealing the opening in the first blood vessel while an anastomosis is created between the first blood vessel and a second blood vessel, the device comprising:

 a cutting mechanism for creating the opening in the first blood vessel, the cutting mechanism comprising at least one electrode;

 a seal for sealing the opening in the first blood vessel; and

 a tool body fixedly coupled to the cutting mechanism wherein the cutting mechanism is generally stationary with respect to the tool body, the tool body comprising a distal end having a distal opening and a proximal end having a proximal opening, the cutting mechanism attached to the distal end and an inner lumen extending between the distal opening and the proximal opening for delivering the seal through the tool body and into the opening in the first blood vessel, and wherein the seal is moveable distally and proximally with respect to the cutting mechanism.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a tether attached to the seal.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a shaft attached to the seal.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a rod attached to the seal.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a conductor for delivering energy to the electrode.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5 wherein the energy is RF energy.

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7. (Original) The device of claim 5 wherein the conductor is metal.
8. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the seal comprises a coating.
9. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the seal comprises a flexible material.
10. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the seal comprises one or more ribs.
11. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a shaft for delivering the seal through the tool body and into the opening in the first blood vessel.
12. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a rod for delivering the seal through the tool body and into the opening in the first blood vessel.
13. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the seal is inflatable.
14. (Original) The device of claim 13 wherein the seal comprises one or more inflatable chambers.
15. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the seal comprises one or more openings for delivering one or more fluids.
16. (Original) The device of claim 15 wherein the seal comprises one or more openings for delivering one or more agents.
17. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the seal comprises one or more suture guides.
18. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the seal comprises a plurality of sealing members which are used in combination to seal the opening.

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19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the seal comprises a dissolvable material.

21. (Currently Amended) A device for creating an opening in a first blood vessel and for sealing the opening in the first blood vessel while an anastomosis is created between the first blood vessel and a second blood vessel, the device comprising:

 a cutting mechanism having at least one cutting blade for creating the opening in the first blood vessel;

 an inflatable seal having at least one inflatable chamber for sealing the opening in the first blood vessel; and

 a tool body fixedly coupled to the cutting mechanism wherein the cutting mechanism is generally stationary with respect to the tool body, the tool body comprising a distal end having a distal opening and a proximal end having a proximal opening, the cutting mechanism attached to the distal end and an inner lumen extending between the distal opening and the proximal opening for delivering the seal through the tool body and into the opening in the first blood vessel, and wherein the seal is moveable distally and proximally with respect to the cutting mechanism.

22. (Original) The device of claim 21 further comprising at least one lumen coupled to the inflatable chamber.

23. (Original) The device of claim 21 wherein the seal comprises a coating.

24. (Original) The device of claim 21 wherein the seal comprises a flexible material.

25. (Original) The device of claim 21 wherein the seal comprises one or more ribs.

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26. (Original) The device of claim 21 further comprising a shaft for delivering the seal through the tool body and into the opening in the first blood vessel.

27. (Original) The device of claim 21 wherein the seal comprises one or more openings for delivering one or more fluids.

28. (Original) The device of claim 27 wherein the seal comprises one or more openings for delivering one or more agents.

29. (Original) The device of claim 21 wherein the seal comprises one or more suture guides.

30. – 47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) A device for creating an opening in a first blood vessel and for sealing the opening in the first blood vessel while an anastomosis is created between the first blood vessel and a second blood vessel, the device comprising:

a cutting mechanism having at least one cutting blade for creating the opening in the first blood vessel;

a seal comprising a plurality of seal members coupled to a delivery shaft, wherein the seal members are configurable into a delivery configuration for passage through the opening in the blood vessel and a sealing configuration for sealing the opening in the blood vessel; and

a tool body fixedly coupled to the cutting mechanism wherein the cutting mechanism is generally stationary with respect to the tool body, the tool body comprising a distal end having a distal opening and a proximal end having a proximal opening, the cutting mechanism attached to the distal end and an inner lumen extending between the distal opening and the proximal opening for delivering the seal through the tool body and into the opening in the first blood vessel, and wherein the seal is moveable distally and proximally with respect to the cutting mechanism.

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49. (Original) The device of claim 48 wherein the seal comprise a coating.
50. (Original) The device of claim 48 wherein the seal comprises a flexible material.
51. (Original) The device of claim 48 wherein the seal comprises one or more ribs.
52. (Original) The device of claim 48 wherein the seal comprises one or more openings for delivering one or more fluids.
53. (Original) The device of claim 48 wherein the seal comprises one or more openings for delivering one or more agents.
54. (Original) The device of claim 48 wherein the seal comprises one or more suture guides.
55. (Original) The device of claim 48 wherein the delivery configuration comprises the seal members being in a stacked configuration.
56. (Original) The device of claim 48 wherein the sealing configuration comprises the seal members being in a fanned out configuration.
57. (Original) The device of claim 48 wherein the seal comprises one or more suture guides.
58. – 69. (Canceled)